

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (cancelled)

Claim 2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (amended) The composition of claim 25 wherein the comestible is selected from the group consisting of margarine, spreads, dressings, and oils.

Claim 4. (amended) The composition of claim 25 wherein the comestible is aqueous based.

Claim 5. (amended) A composition comprising

an alcohol having an average length of from about C₂₀-C₂₆ in a amount sufficient to reduce cholesterol in a vertebrae;

said alcohol encapsulated in a food grade acceptable material selected from the group consisting of coating polymers, waxes and plasticizers, wherein the weight ratio of alcohol to the food grade acceptable material is from about 1:4 to about 10:1 and the encapsulated alcohol has a diameter of less than about 200 microns, wherein the composition is admixed in a comestible.

Claim 6. (original) The composition of claim 5 wherein the food grade material is a cellulosic.

Claim 7. (amended) The composition of claim 25 which additionally contains a second cholesterol reducing agent in an amount sufficient to reduce the cholesterol level in a human being.

Claim 8. (original) The composition of claim 7 wherein the second cholesterol reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of sterols, stanols, sterol esters, stanol esters and oryzanol

Claims 9-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13. (previously amended) A method for reducing cholesterol in a vertebrate comprising administering an effective amount of the composition of claim 5.